Claims:

An oral contraceptive composition comprising a compound of the formula:

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$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
O & & & O \\
R - X - OR_1 & & \text{or} & R - X - OR_2 \\
O & & & OR_3
\end{array}$$

wherein X is P or S;

R is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy,

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$$\begin{array}{c}
O \\
\parallel \\
R_2CO(CH_2)_n
\end{array}, R_3(OCH_2CH_2)_mO - Or R_3YCCH_2C - R_4$$

R₁ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, a pharmaceutically acceptable cation or

15 — C(CH₂)₁CH₃

wherein L is 4 to 24;

R₅ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, phenyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation,

R₂ is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl or C₄-C₂₄ alkoxy, n is 0 to 4;

R₃ is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl, m is 3 to 10;

R₄ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl or COOR₆;

20 R_6 is H or C_1 - C_{13} alkyl; and

Y = O or NH and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for oral delivery.

- 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as
- 25 tablet or capsule.

- 3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as a gelcap or suspension.
 - 4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the compound has the general
- 5 formula

wherein R is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy, or

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and Y is O.

5. The composition of claim 4 wherein

R is C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl;

R₁ is a pharmaceutically acceptable cation or

and L is 20.

6. The composition of claim 4 wherein R is

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R₃ is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl; and

R, is a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

- 7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the compound has the general
- 25 formula

wherein R is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl or C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy; and

R₁ and R₅ are independently H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

- 8. The composition of claim 7 wherein
- 5 R is C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy;

 R_1 is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation; and R_5 is H.

- 9. The contraceptive composition of claim 1 wherein the compound has
- 10 the general formula:

wherein X is P or S;

M is a cation; and

R is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
O & O \\
\parallel & \parallel \\
R_3OCCH_2CH_2 & \text{or} & R_2CO(CH_2)_n & -
\end{array}$$

20 wherein n = 2, 3 or 4;

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 $R_2 = C_9 - C_{13}$ alkyl; and

 $R_3 = C_4 - C_{24}$ alkyl.

- 10. The composition of claim 9 wherein X is S.
- 11. The composition of claim 9 wherein the composition is formulated as tablet or capsule.

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- 12. The composition of claim 9 wherein the composition is formulated as a Gelcap or suspension.
 - 13. The composition of claim 10 wherein the cation is sodium.

14. A contraceptive transdermal patch or implant, wherein said patch or implant comprises a composition comprising a compound of the general formula:

wherein X is P or S;

R is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl, C₄-C₂₄ alkenyl, C₄-C₂₄ alkoxy,

$$R_2$$
CO(CH₂)_n — , R_3 (OCH₂CH₂)_mO — or R_3 YCCH₂C — R_3

R₁ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, a pharmaceutically acceptable cation

wherein L is 4 to 24;

R₅ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, phenyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation,

 R_2 is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl or C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy, n is 0 to 4;

 R_3 is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl, m is 3 to 10;

 R_4 is H, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or COOR₆;

 R_6 is C_1 - C_{13} alkyl; and

Y = O or NH.

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A method of inhibiting the capacitation of sperm cells, said method comprising the steps of contacting the sperm cells with a composition comprising a compound of the general formula:

wherein X is P or S;

R is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy,

10 O H | R₂CO(CH₂)_n - , R₃(OCH₂CH₂)_mO - or
$$R_3$$
YCCH₂C - R₄

R₁ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, a pharmaceutically acceptable cation or

wherein L is 4 to 24;

R₅ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, phenyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation,

R₂ is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl or C₄-C₂₄ alkoxy, n is 0 to 4;

 R_3 is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl, m is 3 to 10;

20 R_4 is H, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or COOR₆;

R₆ is C₁-C₁₃ alkyl; and

Y = O or NH and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

φ 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of contacting the sperm cells with the compound occurs *in vivo* in the male.

16. A method for inhibiting conception, comprising

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administering to a male an effective amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salt of a compound of the general formula:

wherein X is P or S;

R is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl, C₄-C₂₄ alkenyl, C₄-C₂₄ alkoxy,

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$$\prod_{R_2 \text{CO(CH}_2)_n}^{O}$$
 , $R_3 \text{(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_m}^{O}$ or $\prod_{R_3 \text{YCCH}_2\text{C}}^{O}$ $\prod_{R_4}^{H}$

R₁ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, a pharmaceutically acceptable cation or

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wherein L is 4 to 24;

R, is H, C1-C4 alkyl, phenyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation,

 R_2 is C_4 - C_{24} alkyl or C_4 - C_{24} alkoxy, n is 0 to 4;

R₃ is C₄-C₂₄ alkyl, m is 3 to 10;

 R_4 is H, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or COOR₆;

 R_6 is C_1 - C_{13} alkyl;

Y = O or NH.

The method of claim 16 wherein the composition is administered orally in a daily dosage form.

The method of claim 16 wherein the composition is administered transdermally or subcutaneously to maintain constant systemic levels for an extended time period.